

AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS OF LAND FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION] OF A SCENIC PARKWAY TO PROVIDE AN
APPROPRIATE VIEW OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NA-
TIONAL PARK FROM THE TENNESSEE SIDE OF THE PARK

DECEMBER 1 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 18), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, sub-
mitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1388]

The Senate Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1388) to authorize the acceptance of donations of land for the construction of a scenic parkway to provide an appropriate view of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park from the Tennessee side of the park, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and with the recommendation that it do pass.

An explanation of the bill, as carried in the report of the House Committee on the Public Lands, is hereinbelow set forth in full and made a part of this report.

[H. Rept. No. 608, 78th Cong., 1st sess.]

The purpose of this bill is to provide the necessary authority for the acceptance of donations of land to be used as a right-of-way for a scenic parkway in the foothills bordering the Tennessee side of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The projected parkway would follow a course generally parallel to the north boundary of the park, and would afford an inspiring panorama of the mountains without disturbing the scenic or agricultural values of the country. The parkway project is understood to have the full approval of the people of the surrounding region. It is not contemplated that work on the parkway would be initiated during the present war, and the bill merely authorizes acceptance of donations of the necessary land.

The enactment of the bill is favored by the Members of the House of Representatives from the two districts involved, and is recommended by the Department of the Interior and approved by the Bureau of the Budget. The bill was reported unanimously by the Committee on the Public Lands.

The favorable report of the Secretary of the Interior on the bill is set forth below and made a part of this report:

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 11, 1943.

HON. J. HARDIN PETERSON,
*Chairman, Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. PETERSON: Further reference is made to the request of your committee for a report on H. R. 1388, entitled "A bill to authorize the acceptance of donations of land for the construction of a scenic parkway to provide an appropriate view of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park from the Tennessee side of the park, and for other purposes."

I recommend that H. R. 1388 be enacted.

H. R. 1388 is the same as H. R. 6657 of the Seventy-seventh Congress, which was passed by the House of Representatives and reported from the Senate Committee on Public Lands and Surveys (S. Rept. No. 1623, 77th Cong.).

The purpose of this proposed legislation is to authorize the acceptance of land to be donated to the United States for the construction of a scenic parkway in the bordering foothills of the mountains near the north boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The approximate route of the parkway is shown on the enclosed map. Expenditures of Federal funds for road-construction purposes would not be necessary until after the war. Present enactment of the proposed legislation is desirable, however, as the Federal Government would be in a position to accept donations of land and to go ahead with the construction of the highway at the proper time.

Prior to the war, traffic congestion on the north side of the park had become an acute problem due to the fact that the roads within the area are inadequate in alinement, width, and extent. Improvement and extension of these roads to carry the park traffic safely would be expensive and impractical. Furthermore, such changes in the park road system would scar the landscape and would not provide satisfactory views of the mountain scenery.

The park road problem has been studied for several years with the conclusion that the logical and practical solution would be the construction of a parkway running generally parallel to the north boundary of the park. Such a parkway, to be constructed outside the main range of mountains and generally on the flanks of small secondary ridges, could be constructed in accordance with proper standards for safe and easy travel. The proposed route would afford inspiring panoramic views of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

I have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection by that Bureau to the presentation of this report to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD L. ICKES,
Secretary of the Interior.

An identical bill (H. R. 6657) was passed by the House of Representatives in the Seventy-seventh Congress, and was favorably reported upon in the Senate

